

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN IRISH INDEPENDENT MARCH 7, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH INDEPENDENT
MARCH7, 1978 UNDER HEADING PASSING THROUGH:

PRESIDENT TITO OF YUGOSLAVIA, WHO PASSED THROUGH
SHANNON YESTERDAY ON HIS WAY TO VISIT PRESIDENT
CARTER IN THE UNITED STATES, IS A MAN WHO HAS
SURVIVED AS RULER OF HIS COUNTRY SINCE THE END
OF THE LAST WAR. HOW HE ACHIEVED POWER AND THE
METHODS USED TO MAINTAIN IT WILL NOW BE THE
CONCERN OF HISTORIANS - FOR BOTH ARE CONTENTIOUS
SUBJECTS. BUT THE WORLD'S PUBLIC WILL KNOW HIM
AS THE MAN WHO STOOD UP TO THE RUSSIANS - AND GOT
AWAY WITH IT.

HIS EARNEST PURSUIT OF A GOAL WHICH WOULD SEE
A UNION OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS WILL NOT BLIND US
TO THE FACT THAT HIS OWN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WAS
COMMUNIST, ALBEIT COMMUNIST WITH SOME DIFFERENCES.
THE STANDARD CLAIM OF TITOISTS IS THAT HE
FORMULATED A COMMUNISM WHICH GAVE POWER TO WORKERS:
CLOSE EXAMINATION SHOWS THAT, AS IN OTHER COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES, IT IS THE PARTY APPARATUS WHICH WIELDS
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CONTROL.

BUT EVEN AS HE SOUGHT TO AMALGAMATE INTO ONE COUNTRY
THE DIVERSE PEOPLES HE RULES TITO KNEW AND KNOWS
THAT WHEN HE IS GONE THE SYSTEM HE HAS BUILT UP
STANDS AT RISK. THE PRESSURES INSIDE HIS OWN LAND,
AND THE CONSTANT PRESSURE OF THE SOVIETS ARE FACTORS

WHICH WILL PLAY A LARGE PART IN DETERMINING HOW YUGOSLAVIA WILL SURVIVE THE TRANSITION. TITOISTS. ARGUE THAT HE HAS CONSTRUCTED A FAIL-SAFE SYSTEM FOR THE SUCCESSION BUT THE REALISTS KNOW THAT IT IS HIS OWN PERSONALITY WHICH HAS HELD THE COUNTRY TOGETHER.

HIS VISIT TO CARTER COULD WELL BE TO REVIEW THE YUGOSLAV SCENE IN ANTICIPATION OF WHAT WILL FOLLOW HIS DEMISE. THE UNITED STATES, NO MORE THAN YUGOSLAVIA, WILL NOT WANT TO SEE SOVIET BASES IN THE ADRIATIC AFTER TITO'S DEATH. THE QUESTION IS - WHAT CAN EITHER MAN DO ABOUT IT? KRENE

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